

BELARUS -
ROUTES OF BRIGHT & UNFORGETTABLE
IMPRESSIONS!





Ladies and gentlemen!
Dear colleagues and friends!

It's a great honor for me to introduce "Vneshintourist" Travel Agency (Minsk, Belarus). Founded in October 1996 as a private travel agency, today we are one of the largest and most reliable tour operator and travel agency in Belarus, dealing with inbound & outbound tourism. "Vneshintourist" has long lasting traditions of reliable service since its personnel has more than 20-year experience in international tourism.

"Vneshintourist" offers different packages of inbound tours to Belarus suitable for people of different ages and matching their professional interests. Business tours, ethnic tours, tours for history & arts lovers, tours for sports fans, tours for nature admirers, sightseeing tours, holiday tours, casino tours… etc. And we are always ready to realize them!

With our ambitious, energetic and experienced staff we are able to provide our clients with the comprehensive range of travel services at the most competitive rates.

We believe that cooperation with our customers & partners should always be open, fair, respectful and honest.

We guarantee individual attention to our customers, high-quality services and well-grounded cost effectiveness.

Welcome to Belarus, the magnificent country,
which is TOP TOURIST ATTRACTION itself!

Sincerely yours,

Vladimir Makovsky,
"Vneshintourist" Director









Six reasons to visit Belarus… or may be more?

(Recommendations from our colleagues,
the National Tourist Information Agency of Belarus, which we also share!)

Those who have been to Belarus have discovered that the Belarusians are a hospitable nation living in a magnificent country. What would be the main reasons to look at Belarus as a tourist destination?

1. Unspoiled nature

Very few countries can boast of such natural resources as Belarus. Century-old forests occupy over one third of the country's territory and stretch for miles interrupted only by fields, rivers and lakes. Berezinsky Reserve and Belavezhskaya Pushcha are two top natural parks in Belarus, the latter being UNESCO World Heritage Site. But you will be able to find a natural retreat of your own – hundreds of tourists travel to Belarus every year to put up a tent and stay for a while in the tranquil countryside. Even more people embark on river tours that last several days and get you as close to nature as possible providing an escape from the civilization.

2. Charming atmosphere of Belarusian villages

One can get plenty of rest at one of the Belarusian farmsteads away from huge cities. A few days' stay in the village – though with the urban conveniences – on traditional Belarusian cuisine will surely revive your energy. There are over 200 decent farmsteads in Belarus located in the most scenic locations of the country. Aroma of the field herbs, dusks and dawns at the riverbank, a glass of cow-produced milk for breakfast? Moreover, some farmsteads offer extras such as guided walks, bicycle tours and horse riding courses to fill the day of their guests.

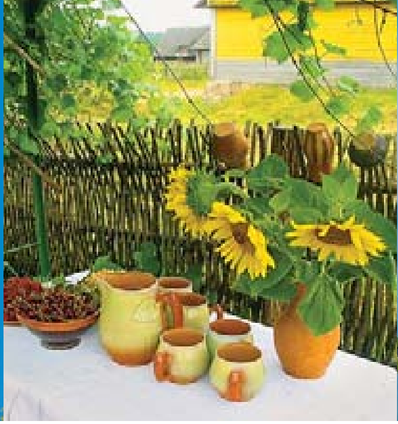
3. Unique tourist attractions

Belarusian architects used the styles they learned in Russia and Western Europe and still introduced local features into their works. Although the numerous wars and the Communist era saw much of the country's architectural heritage flattened to the ground, one can still admire the grand proportions of the Fortress ruins in Brest, the history of Boris and Gleb Church in Grodno (12 c) and certainly the restored Mir Castle and Nesvizh Palace and Park Complex – other Belarusian UNESCO World Heritage Site. Often overlooked by mass tourists, the old churches in Murovanka, Komai and Synkovichy are the true witnesses of the past that can make the highlight of tailored journeys.











4. Active recreation spots

While Belarus has no mountains, it offers a number of resorts where you can practice skiing at wintertime and thus stay in shape. Ice rinks and sports palaces are an ideal place for skating. In summer environmental paths in natural reserves, boat tours, bicycle and horse itineraries are available for Belarus tourists. Hunting and fishing tours are quite popular with tourists from Germany and Italy, while Britons and Australians prefer Belarus nature sightseeing.

5. Treatment and recreation infrastructure

Belarus health resorts and sanatoriums boast of modern equipment and skillful personnel, highly experienced in different healing techniques. Lake Naroch – the largest one in Belarus – offers about a dozen best places for treating bloodstream and digestion problems. In between the procedures you can take walks along the lake shore to admire scenic views. A unique establishment offers treatment of respiratory disorders in Soligorsk – the city of Belarusian salt mines. Besides, there are multiple water places scattered across Belarus that combined with natural surroundings work wonders to one's health and are never short of repeated customers.

6. Unique culture and cuisine

Belarus is located between East and West and therefore Belarusian culture evolved accordingly, absorbing culture features of the neighbor countries. You have a unique opportunity to see the way the Belarusian peasants lived during the Ozertso Village tour while the complex called Dudutki offers watching and even practicing different folk crafts. A vast range of Belarusian museums supplemented with theatres, circuses and concert halls will keep you occupied in the afternoons and on weekends.

Belarusian cuisine could make a separate story, perhaps even a book. But do you really want to read about how delicious potato pancakes stuffed with mushrooms can be? Or would you like to just get down to tasting? Then you are most welcome to Belarus!

www.belarustourism.by



Vnesh Intourist













Recommended Tours from "Vneshintourist" Travel Agency

Let us hope that Belarus as a travel destination is in your plans, and sooner or later you will visit this wonderful country.

Of course, you can travel in Belarus absolutely independently using Internet or other sources of information. But just imagine how much time you will spend to make a tour of your own from different fragments like visa, accommodation, transportation, finding the way to place to be visited in the country you visit for the first time…and so on.

And we believe that our recommended tours on individual or on group basis will really help you to get acquainted with ancient history, rich culture, breathtaking nature, traditions, attractive places of interest, and with the life of Belarusian people as a nation.

You are not obliged strictly to follow the duration of each tour offered. Please, look at them attentively through and find out which tour or which place might be of interest to you, and we will help you to organize Your Own trip to Belarus according to the time available, and matching your interests and your financial status.













Minsk City Breaks
(Variants)

3 days/2 nights, Friday – Sunday

Day 1. Arrival in Minsk-2 International Airport (45 km from Minsk), usually in the afternoon. Transfer to the hotel booked. Check-in at the hotel. Time at leisure. Dinner. Evening activity (optional) ballet/opera performance, circus show, clubs, casinos... Overnight.

Day 2. Breakfast. Morning sightseeing tour of Minsk (founded in 1067, 3 hrs)* – the capital of Belarus *(See page 15)*. Moving to Mir Castle (100 km west of Minsk). Lunch in a local Belarusian cafe or in Mir Castle restaurant. Tour of Mir Castle (3 hrs)* *(See page 15)* – a pearl of the Belarusian architecture. Returning to Minsk. Dinner. Overnight.

Day 3. Breakfast. Time for purchasing souvenirs. Check out. Transfer to Minsk-2 International Airport for your departure flight home.

Program of Day 2 can have some more variants:

1. Minsk City Tour +"Stalin Line" Complex. (35 km north of Minsk, near the town of Zaslavl) Do you still remember this name? * *(See page 15)*. ... Guided survey of "Stalin Line". Time for exploring "Stalin Line" on your own. Returning to Minsk. Dinner. Overnight.

2. Minsk City Tour + Nesvizh. Tour of Nesvizh Complex* *(See page 15)* – a former residence of the Radzivills – medieval Belarusian magnats. Returning to Minsk. Dinner. Overnight.

3. Minsk City Tour + Dudutki. Museum of Material Culture (40 km south of Minsk)* Lovely place! *(See page 16)*

Exploring Dudutky. Country-style lunch. Returning to Minsk. Dinner. Overnight.











4. Minsk City Tour + Ozertso. Ethnografic Museum (18 km south-west of Minsk).

Really natural!* *(See page 16)*. Exploring Ozertso Museum. Country-style lunch. Returning to Minsk. Dinner. Overnight.

5. Minsk City Tour + Museums. Visit to the National Art Museum* *(See page 16)* or to the National history Museum* *(See page 16)*. Time to explore the city on your own. Dinner. Overnight.

6. Minsk City + Khatyn Memorial Complex.* *(See page 16)* (60km north-east of Minsk) World War II memory. Survey of Khatyn. Lunch. On the way back we visit very picturesque vicinity called Raubichy. Returning to Minsk. Dinner. Overnight.



Bonus!!!

This additional Minsk City Breaks offer is for very energetic travelers & looks like this:

Day 1. Arrival in Minsk-2 International Airport (45 km from Minsk), usually in the afternoon. Transfer to Minsk. City Tour of Minsk– our beautiful capital. (founded in 1067,3 hrs)* *(See page 15)*. Check-in at the hotel. Dinner. Evening activity (optional) ballet/opera performance, circus show, clubs, casinos....Overnight.

Day 2. Early breakfast. Moving to Mir Castle (100 km west of Minsk). Tour of Mir Castle (3 hrs)* *(See page 15)* – a pearl of the Belarusian architecture. Lunch in Belarus-style cafe or in Mir Castle restaurant. Transfer to Nesvizh (30 km). Tour of Nesvizh Complex* *(See page 15)* – a former residence of the Radzivills – medieval Belarusian magnats. Coming back to Minsk. Dinner. Time at leisure or exploring the city on your own. Overnight.

Day 3. Breakfast. Time for purchasing souvenirs. Check out. Transfer to Minsk- 2 International Airport for your departure flight home.

Note: Sometimes travelers use Vilnius airport where Low cost aircarriers operate, and then, taking train Vilnius-Minsk, which arrive in Minsk at 10.00, thus allowing to visit more attractions during City Breaks.









"Discover Belarus for 5 days" Tour

5 days/4 nights

Variant 1

Minsk – Vitebsk – Polotsk – Minsk

Day 1. Arrival in Minsk-2 International Airport (45 km from Minsk) usually in the afternoon. Transfer to the hotel booked. Check-in at the hotel.Time at leisure. Dinner. Evening activity (optional) ballet/opera performance, circus show, clubs, casinos… Overnight.

Day 2. Breakfast. Sightseeing tour of Minsk (3 hrs)* *(See page 15)*. Lunch. Visit to the National Art Museum of Belarus* *(See page 16)*. Time at leisure. Dinner. Overnight.

Day 3. Breakfast. Transfer to Vitebsk (269 km north-east of Minsk) – Marc Chagall birthplace! Check-in. Tour of Vitebsk.* *(See page 17)*. Overnight in"Eridan" hotel.

Day 4. Breakfast. Transfer to the city-museum of Polotsk (109 km north – west of Vitebsk), the oldest of Belarusian cities.Tour of Polotsk.* *(See page 17)*. Lunch. Transfer to Minsk. Late dinner. Overnight.

Day 5. Breakfast. Time for purchasing souvenirs. Check out. Transfer to Minsk-2 International Airport for your departure flight home.











"Discover Belarus for 5 days" Tour

5 days/4 nights

Variant 2

Minsk – Stalin Line – Mir – Nesvizh – Dudutki – Minsk

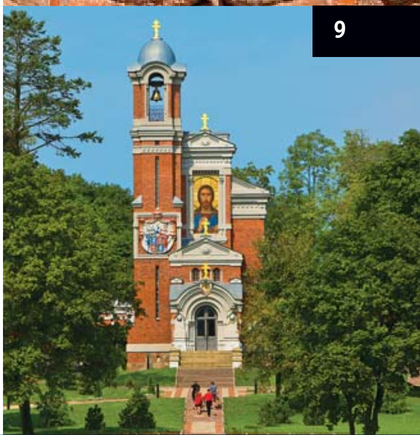
Day 1. Arrival in Minsk-2 International Airport (45 km from Minsk) usually in the afternoon. Transfer to the hotel booked. Check-in at the hotel. Time at leisure. Dinner. Evening activity (optional) ballet/opera performance, circus show, clubs, casinos... Overnight.

Day 2. Breakfast. Sightseeing tour of Minsk (3 hrs)* *(See page 15)*. Transfer to "Stalin Line" Historical Complex (30 km north of Minsk)* *(See page 15)*. "Military" lunch. Survey of "Stalin Line". Coming back to Minsk. Time at leisure. Dinner. Overnight.

Day 3. Early breakfast. The whole day is dedicated to the pride of Belarus-Mir Castle & Nesvizh Palace Complex entering UNESCO List of World Cultural Heritage. At first we visit Mir Castle (100 km west of Minsk)* *(See page 15)*. Lunch in Mir surroundings.Transfer to Nesvizh (30 km).Tour of Nesvizh.* *(See page 15)*. Returning back to Minsk. Dinner. Overnight .

Day 4. Breakfast. Transfer to the magnificent place – Dudutki, Museum of material culture & mode of life in the open-air (40 km south of Minsk). Tour of Dudutki* *(See page 16)*. Lunch in the country inn. Transfer to Minsk. Late dinner. Overnight.

Day 5. Breakfast. Time for purchasing souvenirs. Check out. Transfer to Minsk- 2 International Airport for your departure flight home.















"Discover Belarus for 5 days" Tour

5days/4 nights

Variant 3

Minsk – Strotchitsy – Grodno – Mir – Minsk

Day 1. Arrival in Minsk-2 International Airport (45 km from Minsk) usually in the afternoon. Transfer to the hotel booked. Check-in at the hotel. Time at leisure. Dinner. Evening activity (optional) ballet/opera performance, circus show, clubs, casinos… Overnight.

Day 2. Breakfast. Sightseeing tour of Minsk (3 hrs)* *(See page 15)*. Transfer to the State Museum of Belarusian Country Architecture & Mode of Life in the village of Ozertso (16 km south-west of Minsk)* *(See page 16)*. Coming back to Minsk. Time at leisure. Dinner. Overnight.

Day 3. Early breakfast. Transfer to Grodno(269 km west of Minsk), considered to be one the most charming Belarusian cities, via the town of Lida (180 km west of Minsk)* *(See page 18)*. After short stop in Lida we drive to Grodno. Check-in. Time at leisure. Dinner. Overnight.

Day 4. Breakfast. Tour of Grodno**(See page 18)*. Coming back to Minsk. En route visit to Mir Castle (210 km)* *(See page 15)*. Transfer to Minsk. Check in. Time at leisure. Dinner. Overnight.

Day 5. Breakfast. Time for purchasing souvenirs. Check out. Transfer to Minsk-2 International Airport for your departure flight home.









"Discover Belarus for 5 days" Tour

5 days/4 nights

Variant 4

Minsk – Dudutki – Mogilev – Vitebsk – Minsk

Day 1. Arrival in Minsk-2 International Airport (45 km from Minsk)usually in the afternoon. Transfer to the hotel booked. Check-in at the hotel. Time at leisure. Dinner. Evening activity (optional) ballet/opera performance, circus show, clubs, casinos… Overnight.

Day 2. Breakfast. Sightseeing tour of Minsk (3 hrs)**(See page 15)*. Transfer to Dudutki* Museum of Material Culture (40 km south of Minsk)* Lovely place! *(See page 16)*. Coming back to Minsk. Time at leisure. Dinner. Overnight.

Day 3. Early breakfast. Transfer to Mogilev (200 km east of Minsk), the city shrouded in mysteries & legends. Check-in Tour of Mogilev* *(See page 18)*. Dinner. Overnight.

Day 4. Breakfast. Transfer to Vitebsk (85 km). Check-in. Lunch Tour of Vitebsk* *(See page 17)*. Return to Minsk. Check-in. Dinner. Overnight.

Day 5. Breakfast. Time for purchasing souvenirs. Check out. Transfer to Minsk-2 International Airport for your departure flight home.



Vnesh Intourist








"Conquering Belarus within a week" Tour

7 days/6 nights

Variant 1

Minsk – Mir Castle – Brest – Pinsk – Turov – Gomel – Mogilev – Minsk

Day 1. Arrival in Minsk-2 International Airport (45 km from Minsk)usually in the afternoon. Transfer to the hotel booked. Check-in at the hotel. Sightseeing tour of Minsk.* *(See page 15)*. Time at leisure. Dinner. Evening activity (optional) ballet/opera performance, circus show, clubs, casinos… Overnight.

Day 2. Breakfast.Transfer to Brest (345 km south-west of Minsk) – the traditional western gate of Belarus. En route visit to Mir Castle(100 km)* *(See page 15)*. Lunch there. Proceeding to Brest. Check-in. Dinner. Overnight.

Day 3. Early breakfast. Tour of Brest* *(See page 19)*, the city which played an important role in history & determined the fate of states & peoples. Time at leisure. Dinner. Overnight.

Day 4. Breakfast. Moving to Pinsk (183 km), the historic city with a beautifully restored downtown full of two-story buildings dating from the 19th century. Sightseeing tour of Pinsk* *(See page 19)*. Check-in. Dinner. Overnight.

Day 5. Early breakfast. Transfer to Gomel (351 km east of Brest, 6 hrs), the second largest city of Belarus famous for its fantastic Palace & Park Complex in the Classical Style of the late 18th century. En route short visit to the town of Turov. (135 km east of Pinsk)* *(See page 19)* – the former capital of the medieval Principality of Turov & Pinsk. Mini-survey of Turov. Driving further to Gomel (216 km). Check-in. Tour of Gomel* *(See page 19)*. Time at leisure. Dinner. Overnight.

Day 6. Early breakfast. Transfer to Mogilev (177 km north of Gomel). Lunch. Tour of Mogilev* *(See page 18)*. Return to Minsk (192 km west of Mogilev) Check-in. Dinner. Overnight.

Day 7. Breakfast. Time for purchasing souvenirs. Check out. Transfer to Minsk-2 International Airport for your departure flight home.









"Conquering Belarus within a week" Tour

7 days/6 nights

Variant 2

Minsk – Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve – Vitebsk – Polotsk – Grodno – Novogrudok – Mir Castle – Minsk

Day 1. Arrival in Minsk-2 International Airport (45 km from Minsk)usually in the afternoon. Transfer to the hotel booked. Check-in at the hotel. Time at leisure. Dinner. Evening activity (optional) ballet/opera performance, circus show, clubs, casinos… Overnight.

Day 2. Breakfast. Sightseeing tour of Minsk (3 hrs)* *(See page 15)*. Lunch. Visit to the National Arts Museum Of Belarus.**(See page 16)*. Time at leisure. Dinner. Overnight.

Day 3. Early breakfast. Transfer to Vitebsk. (269 km north-east of Minsk). On the way visit to the Berezinsky Natural Reserve.* *(See page 19)*. Lunch there. Arrive in Vitebsk. Check-in. Dinner. Overnight at "Eridan" hotel.

Day 4. Breakfast. Sightseeing tour of Vitebsk.* *(See page 17)*. Transfer to Polotsk (109 km north-west of Vitebsk. Tour of Polotsk.* *(See page 17)*. Coming back to Minsk. Check-in. Time at leisure. Dinner. Overnight.

Day 5. Early breakfast. Transfer to Grodno(269 km west of Minsk) via Lida.**(See page 18)*. Lunch. Tour of Grodno**(See page 18)*. Check-in. Dinner. Overnight.

Day 6. Early breakfast. Return to Minsk via Novogrudok (161 km). Minitour of Novogrudok* *(See page 19)*. Then on the way back visit to Mir Castle (58 km). Tour of Mir Castle.**(See page 15)*. Driving back to Minsk. Check-in. Time at leisure. Dinner. Overnight.

Day 7. Breakfast. Time for purchasing souvenirs. Check out. Transfer to Minsk-2 International Airport for your departure flight home.







THE LIST OF BELARUS ATTRACTIONS AS PER TOURS

1. Tour of Minsk includes architectural, historical and cultural monuments of the 17th – 20th centuries: Independence Square with the House of Government, St Simeon and Helena Church (The Red Church, 1910), Independence Avenue, Victory Square with its 38-meter Obelisk, Eternal fire honoring the heroes of World War II, the House of the First Congress of Russian Social Democratic Labor Party (1898), the City Hall, the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit (1642), the Cathedral of StSt. Peter & Paul (1613), The Saint Trinity Church (1874), Roman-Catholic Cathedral of Saint Virgin Mary (1710), historic heart of the city – Trinity Suburb – restored downtown of Minsk of the 18th–19th century, Nemiga Street, National Library, "Minsk Arena" Sports Complex…

2. MIR Castle – a pearl of the Belarusian architecture – the first monument of the national culture which has been included in the List of the World Heritage of UNESCO in 2000. The construction of the castle was started by Duke Ilynich in 1522 in the Belarusian Gothic architectural style. In 1568 the Radzivill magnates family, new owners of the castle made the castle into a fortress. Each of the 5 formidable brick castle towers in height up to 27 m was connected by thick defensive walls. Each tower was decorated in its own way. The castle was originally surrounded by a moat, an Italian-style garden and a lake. After the renovations and with the help of UNESCO, the castle now has a luxury hotel, a restaurant and a full-fledged museum.

3. "Stalin Line" Complex. (35 km north of Minsk near the town of Zaslavl). In the thirties of the 20th c. on the Western border of the former USSR a network of defense military fortifications was built. These fortifications stretched from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea including 4 on the territory of Belarus. All this network of defense installations is also known in the world as "Stalin Line" (we are sure you still remember the name…). On June, 30, 2005, "Stalin Line", Historical and Cultural complex was officially opened. Separate fortifications were restored in Finland, Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, but the complete complex is only in Belarus (total area is 40 hectares) and in France ("Maginot Line")…When on the territory of the complex, you can do everything – get into 2 or 3-embrasure pillbox and to become "a machine-gunner", sit down on a chair of a gun-layer and become an artillery man, stroll along trenches or climb up the tank, one of the museum of military equipment exhibits, just to feel yourself in combat situation on the front line of defense… and thank God, this is not a reality but only a touch to the history…

4. Tour of Nesvizh Complex* – a former residence of the Radzivills – medieval Belarusian magnats. Nesvizh sightseeing tour includes the Palace and Castle Ensemble founded in the 16th century, and built by Jan Maria Bernardoni, Corpus Dei Roman Catholic church (16th century) built also by Bernardoni, a patrimonial burial-vault for the Radzivills, Slutsk Gate (16th century), the Town Hall (16th–17th centuries), Castle Gate Tower (16th century), Benedictine monastery (17th–18th centuries). Nesvizh Plalace is considered to be the most beautiful palace in Belarus, and its gardens are of peculiar attraction, too.

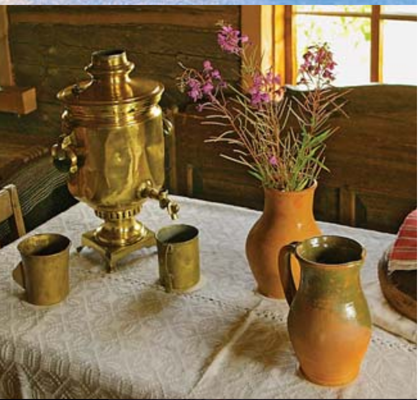














5. Dudutki.

Museum of Material Culture (40 km south of Minsk). Founded in 1993. It covers the territory of 160 hectares.

Whoever you are, irrespective of age or position, plunge yourself into the atmosphere of the 19th century Belarus, get to know the ways of country life and discover the secrets of ancient handicrafts.

Tourists are taken:

- to the old and the only working windmill in Belarus, where they can see how grain was turned into flower and find "a surprise";
- to the pottery shop, where one can see traditional work of a skilled potter and join the artisan in creative process;
- to the ancient smithy, where one can watch a blacksmith at work and receive a lucky horse shoe as a gift;
- to the village bakery with tasting fresh village rye bread made before your eyes, farmer's butter, cheese and milk ;
- to the only legal in Belarus apparatus for "SAMOGON" (local vodka) tasting it with fresh cucumbers or marinated pickles with honey;
- to the ethnographic gallery.

6. Ozertso.

Ethnografic Museum (18 km south-west of Minsk. A charming tiny village situated on the picturesque banks of the river Ptich. Arrangements of original pieces of architecture let you compare Belarusian rural styles from different parts of the country. It offers you an open exposition of country buildings, hundreds of articles of domestic use, agricultural implements formerly used by peasants, works of applied art.

7. the National Art Museum.

Large collection of Belarusian art dating back from the 16th-20th centuries includes icons, ancient wooden sculptures, articles of applied art, paintings and drawings. On exibit are works of Russian artists of the 18th -20th centuries, as well as modern art. Permanent and temporary exhibits.

8. the National history Museum.

The leading Museum of the Republic of Belarus. Chronological frames of the museum fund are from 40, 000 B.C. to present time. Several collections of the museum are of specialvalue: The biggest archeological collection in Belarus. Collection "Belarusian folk costume" features both everyday and festal, ceremonial Belarusian clothes; there are costumes of different age and social groups of population. Collection of numismatics. Exposition "The ancient Belarus". Exposition "Old heraldry of Belarus". Practically all the exhibits of the exposition are presented to the public for the first time.

9. Khatyn Memorial Complex.

60 km north-east of Minsk built on the site of the village burnt to ashes during World War II. The small village of Khatyn was burnt down toghether with its 149 residents (75 children

among them) by the Nazi on March 22, 1943. On the remains of the village a memorial complex was opened in 1969 to honour the names of all Belarusian villages (over 150 destroyed villages) that shared Khatyn's fate. Small bells ring to commemorate the massacred.

10. Tour of Vitebsk.

Vitebsk is known today as the "cultural capital" of Belarus. Sometimes it is called also a"city of brides" due to the unique demographic situation there: one man to four women. Founded in 974 (or perhaps 974,or 914) by Olga, the famous Princess of Kievan Rus on the high banks of the Western Dvina River. The city has a number of historic places of interest (all in all there are 223 objects put on the National List of Historical & Cultural Values). The Governor Palace – the monument of the architecture of the 18th cent. built in Classicism style. The building was a residence of Governors, generals, a headquarter of Napoleon, the French Emperor, during 1812 War and who selebrated his 43rd birthday there. The Church of the Annunciation – the monument of the architecture built in the middle of the 12th c. in Old Russian style. Later it was rebuilt into Baroque style.

The Old Town Hall Building – the monument of the architecture of the 18th c. built in Late Baroque and Classicism styles. The Catholic Cathedral of St. Barbara – the monument of the architecture of the second half of the 18th – 19th c. built in New-Roman style. Vitebsk is the birthplace of Marc Chagall, an outstanding artist of the early 20th c. Vitebsk is the site of Chagall Planar Festival of Arts. The annual "Slavyansky Bazar" ("Slavic Bazaar") Music and Arts Festival held in July is the most popular cultural event in this country.

11. Tour of Polotsk.

Polotsk, the oldest of Belarusian cities, was first mentioned in ancient Slavic chronicles "Tale of Bygone Years" in 862, is famous as the city-museum itself & is called correctly Polotsk National Historical and Cultural Museum-Reserve, the unique historical area where its monuments are being preserved, studied, restored and adapted for museum expositions. Altogether, Reserve includes 11 museums. Top attractions: 11th century St. Sophia Cathedral – the monument of the architecture of the 11th – 17th century built during the reign of Vseslav Charodey, the Prince of Polotsk; the Epiphany Monastery – the monument of the architecture of the 16th cent. built in Baroque style with Classicism features. The St. Saviour and Euphrosinia Convent – the monument of the architecture of the 12th – the beginning of the 20th century. It was founded in the 12th century by St. Euphrosinia of Polotsk, a benefactress and matron saint of Belarus. The Convent complex includes: The Church of Transfiguration of the Saviour – the monument of the architecture of the 12th century, the beautiful piece of architectural school of Polotsk. It is there where one can see her symbol the Cross that has ever been considered to be the national heritage of the Belarusian people. The Dwelling House of Polotsk (The House of Peter, the First) – the monument of the architecture of the 17th cent. built in Baroque style. Peter I, the Russian Tsar, lived there during the Northern War of 1700 – 1721 (12.06 – 15.07.1700). Polotsk is a birthplace of Francisk Skarina, a great thinker of the 16th cent., a founder of the first Belarusian printing – house in Prague; he published 23 books in Belarusian language including the Bible (it was the first edition of the Bible in Slavonic and the second in Europe).













12. Tour of Grodno.

Founded in the 11th century as a fortress on the banks of the Neman, today Grodno ranks number one among old Belarusian cities in its authentic planning and 12th – 16th centuries Churches, numerous 17th–18th c. religious and public buildings. The Orthodox Church of St. Boris and St. Gleb – the monument of the stone architecture of the second half of the 12th c. – built in Old-Russian style, one of the most beautiful pieces of the architectural school of Grodno. The Orthodox Church of St. Boris and St. Gleb is a candidate for entering UNESCO World Heritage List. The Old Castle – the complex of defensive religious and secular buildings of the 12th – 19th c. In 1580 the palace was rebuilt for Stephan Batoriy, the king of the Commonwealth (Rzecz Pospolita).

The King Palace (The New Castle) – the monument of the architecture of the second quarter of the 18th century. The Bernadine Monastery – the monument of the architecture of the 16th – 18th c., has features of Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque.

The Brigitte Convent – the monument of the architecture of the first half of the 17th c. Early Baroque style.

The Jesuit Monastery – the monument of the architecture of the 17th c. built in Baroque style.

The Farny (Principal) Catholic Church (1783) – the monument of the architecture of the 18th c. The Franciscan Monastery – the monument of the architecture of the first half of the 17th c. built in Baroque Style.

13. The town of Lida.

(180 km west of Minsk) famous for the Fortress of Lida – the monument of defensive architecture of the 14th–15th c., one of the first castles of new type in Belarus. Founded in 1323. Today only defensive walls and towers are preserved.

The Catholic Church of the Exaltation – the monument of the architecture of the second half of the 18th c. built in Late Baroque style.

14. Tour of Mogilev.

Mogilev was founded in 1267 on the banks of the Dnieper River. The site of many historic events, the city has 17th–18th c. monuments as well as examples of the early 20th c. architecture. The Church Complex of St. Nickolas – the monument of the architecture of the 2nd half of the 17th c. built in Baroque style; it is a place for Orthodox Christians' pilgrimage. The Catholic Church of St. Stanislav – the architectural monument of the first half of the 18th c. built in West-European Baroque style. The walls of the church are covered with frescoes (the most popular of them are: "The Transfiguration", "The Ascension of Mary", "Handing of the Keys to Peter".) In 1780 Catherine II, the Empress of Russia, visited this Church.The Cathedral of Three Confessors – is the main Cathedral Church in Mogilev region. Built in 1909–1911 in Retro-Russian style in honour of the names of Three Confessors of Orthodox Church. Mogilev was also the last residence of the last Emperor of the Russian Empire Nikolas II.

15. Tour of Brest.

Brest founded in 1019, one of the former Soviet Union's 11 "Hero Cities" of World War II, includes the visit to the Brest Fortress which has been turned into a grandiose memorial to its immortal defenders (when the German fascists invaded in June 1941, the Brest Fortress held out for a month), The Berestye Archaeological Museum built over the excavated ruins of 13th century Brest's artisans' quarter and The Rescued Values Museum with its exposition of items confiscated from smugglers by Brest customs officials – some 300 old Russian icons (16–20th c.), paintings, pieces made of silver, gold, porcelain, etc.

16. City tour of Pinsk.

You will see the monuments of baroque architecture of the 17th–18th cc, the Orthodox and Catholic churches, Charles Baromeja's church of the 18th c. and St. Barbara church with the "God's Mother of Jerusalem", the icon of the 16th century the Franciscan monastery, Jesuit collegium of the 17th c. You will also visit the l Museum of the Belarusian Polesye with the unique subjects of the local life , typical clothes, a number of articles from the Radzivill's palace collection.

17. The town of Turov.

(135 km east of Pinsk). One of the oldest towns in Belarus with 6th–9th c. Slavic monuments and burial mounds of Old Slavs. In Old Rus Turov was the center of culture and education. Visit to the St. Boris and Gleb cemetery with the stone cross, "growing out from the earth", the place of orthodox believers pilgrimage.

18. Tour of Gomel.

Gomel was first mentioned in the chronicles in the first half of the 12th century; the officially accepted date is 1142. The most interesting sight of the city is a unique monument of the 18–19th centuries. – the Palace and Park Ensemble including the palace of aristocrats and magnates Duke Rumyantsev & Pashkevich Family, St. Peter and St Paul's Cathedral, the Paskevich Family Chapel and an ancient park. The central streets of Gomel also have several buildings of the 19–20 centuries, which makes the city scenery originally picturesque.

19. The Berezinsky Natural Reserve.

Boundless forests, deep rivers and beautiful lakes have existed here for thousand years on the laws of their own, preserving the gorgeous world of animals and plants. Due to its natural variety Berezinsky reserve is unique and has no analogues in Europe (approved by UNESCO in 1979).

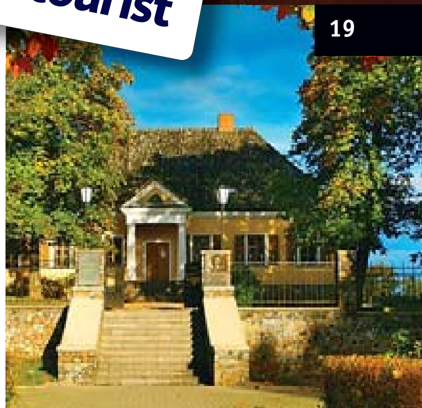
You will have a chance to visit the Nature museum and open-air cages with wild animals & investigate natural environment during hiking on an ecological route (4 km).

20. Minitour of Novogrudok.

Novogrudok's history starts in 1044, when a fortress on this site was erected by Yaroslav Mudriy. Novogrudok entered the historic chronicles as the first capital of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. The Grand Duke Mindaug, the founder of this powerful and flourishing state, was crowned in Novogrudok in 1253 as the King of Lithuania. The remaining fragments of Novogrudok Castle are speechless witnesses of those events.











ACCOMMODATION IN BELARUS

Accommodation is a very substantial part of Your journey in any country You plan to visit…

Due to positive tendency in the development of tourism industry over the last few years many hotels have been built in Belarus, and particularly in Minsk that currently offers more than 30 hotels and over 40 hostels. Nearly 6,000 people can be comfortably accommodated. The same positive tendency is observed in all regional cities of Belarus: Brest, Gomel, Vitebsk, Grodno, Mogilev as well, to say nothing of hotel accommodation in towns of Belarus & in National Parks… And we are proud to inform all travellers now that hotel accommodation in Belarus is not a serious problem anymore. Premium, Mid-range & Budget accommodation, starting from luxury 5-star hotels till modest hostels, matching your interest & finance is a reality in Belarus, and travelers now have real choice. Today there are more than four hundred hotels & hotel complexes with general capacity of 30,000 beds in Belarus.

And hotel booking through "Vneshintourist" will always save your time & money!

Seven new hotels will be constructed in the near future in Minsk, such as Hyatt Regency and Kempinski, both 5 star hotels. If taking the whole of Minsk region into account, there will be over 10,000 beds available in 2013, and in May 2014 during Ice Hockey World Championship the total capacity of hotels and hostels in Minsk will be 20,000 beds available. Not too bad!

Minsk Hotels & Hostels

PRESIDENT HOTEL *****	13, Engels Str., 154 rooms
EUROPE HOTEL *****	28, Internatsionalnaya Str., 67 rooms
CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL *****	13, Kirova Str., 115 rooms
VICTORIA HOTEL ****	59, Pobeditelej Ave., 169 rooms
MINSK HOTEL ****	11, Nezavisimosti Ave., 258 rooms
YUBILEYNAYA HOTEL ***	19, Pobeditelej Ave., 207 rooms
PLANETA HOTEL ***	31, Pobeditelej Ave., 310 rooms
ORBITA HOTEL ***	39, Pushkin Ave., 416 rooms
SPUTNIK HOTEL***	2, Brilevskaya Str., 140 rooms
GARNI HOTEL ***	11, Internatsionalnaya Str., 50 rooms
U FONTANA HOTEL ***	4, Amuratorskaya Str., 18 rooms
TOURIST HOTEL ***	81, Partizansky Ave., 200 rooms
IBB HOTEL ***	11, Gazeta "Pravda" Ave., 45 rooms
Hotel ZVEZDA **	4, Gazeta "Zvezda"Ave., 99 rooms
Hotel 40 LET POBEDY	3, Azgur Str., 117 rooms
"COMFORT" APARHOTEL Supercomplex	1, Shchorsa Str., 134 apartments
POSTOYALETS HOSTEL	147, Partizansky Ave., approx. 50 pax
JAZZ HOSTEL	37A, Mozyrskaya Str., till 50 pax
TRAVELLER HOSTEL	9A, Golodeda Str., 38 beds
X.O. HOSTEL	8A, Korzhenevsky Line, capacity 60 pax




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"COMFORT" APARTHOTEL

SPECIAL OFFER FOR PERFECT COMFORT

1, Shchorsa Str., New Grushevka area, Minsk
(3,5 km from historical Minsk city center)

134 Appartments including 19 of VIP category

"COMFORT" APARTHOTEL is created for business people caring for convenience & mobility, as well as for families with children for whom comfort & safety are the most vital things.

All one , two- or three- room apartments are finely furnished & are equipped with required home appliances.

Their area is 38 – 83 sq.m.

Consierge service is 24 hours running at your disposal.

Nearby territory, parking lot, entrances and stair landings are guarded day & night.

www.comforthotel.by









Ecotourism/Agrotourism in Belarus

Do you know that Belarus is the only country in Europe with no access to seas & having no mountains at all. Nevertheless, Belarus has very substantial potential for development of Ecotourism & Agrotourism. Why?… because, on the other hand, there are 20 thousands rivers, 10 thousands lakes in Belarus.

Forests cover 36% of its territory & National Parks occupy 7% of it. Please add to this combination relatively unchanged areas, where natural beauties are the main attraction, breath-taking beautiful landscapes, hospitality of local population with their traditional lifestyle, and you will understand why Ecotourism & Agrotourism has the right to exist in Belarus.

The charm of Belarus is in tender glimmer of the morning sky over the blurred horizon line, in redolent air of endless pine forests, in farewell cry of cranes, in enjoying the velvet of the green juicy meadow grass & in breathing the smell of hay and moist stack of wood. When staying in one of the homesteads a guest can tour around local sights, swim in local rivers and lakes, and enjoy the genuine Belarusian cuisine.

Ecotourism in Belarus means too many things for its lovers: plant observation (more 1600 species), animal (around 76 species) or bird watching(around 300 species), flora & fauna rescue program etc.

Agro/Agritourism.The programs of village tours give also an opportunity to enjoy the following activities: getting acquainted with a traditional village lifestyle like milking a cow or she-goat, taking in the harvest, mowing the grass, gathering of berries/flowers, horseback riding, admiring local sights …

Belarus offers wonderful opportunities for active rest from relaxing tour around forests and National Parks to horse-riding tours, combining learning Belarus Nature and centuries-long culture of the country.

There are also farmsteads in which everyday life of Belarusians is fully restored as it was a hundred years ago…, where you can have a remarkable time with your family and friends.

Today about 2,000 homesteads welcome foreign travelers, and by 2015 there will be 3000 of them.

And we say " Come & share the beauty of Belarusian country life with "Vneshintourist!"

The detailed program of your Eco/Agro/AgriTourism stay will be sent to you as requested.











Vnesh Intourist

"Vneshintourist" Travel Agency has the honor to invite all Track Cycling fans to attend

UCI (Union Cycliste Internationale) TRACK CYCLING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
20–24 February 2013, Minsk, Belarus

Venue: Minsk Arena – one of the most multifunctional venues in Europe, aimed to host international sports, cultural and entertainment events. The centre consists of four basic facilities: Arena sports and cultural complex (with 15,000 seats), Cycle Track (with 2,000 seats), Skating Stadium (with 3,000 seats), alongside multilevel parking (1,080 car spots). Ultramodern equipment, which meets the highest professional demands, and a unique stage complex with no analogues in Belarus, all this enables Minsk Arena to host numerous events of high international and national significance in sports and cultural life of Belarus.

Welcome to Minsk, Belarus!

MINSK

UCI TRACK CYCLING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
MINSK 2013 | BELARUS











"Vneshintourist" Travel Agency has the honor to invite all Ice Hockey fans to visit

ICE HOCKEY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
9–25 MAY 2014, MINSK, BELARUS

"VNESHINTOURIST" offers to all fans from the world over coming to Belarus to cheer for their teams full range of services covering all the aspects of their stay in the country.

Venue: Belarus will accept the championship in Minsk-Arena Sportive Complex with the capacity of 15 thousand attendance, as well as Chizhovka-Arena Sportive Complex (8 thousand seats), which is due to be opened in 2013.

Ticket sales will be carried out 1,5 year before championship arrangement.

Welcome to Minsk, Belarus!

PLEASANT INFORMATION for FANS!
During this event holders of hockey tickets enter belarus on visa free basis!

Minsk2014
2014 IIHF World Championship Candidate

2014
IIHF
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
BELARUS
Minsk
Applicant





Vnesh Intourist











Visa Arrangements to Belarus

Visas and valid passports are required to enter Belarus. Exceptions are made for the citizens of the CIS, Cuba, Korea (the Democratic People's Republic), Macedonia, Mongolia, Vietnam, Serbia and Montenegro and holders of diplomatic passports from several states.

Belarusian visa is normally issued by a Belarusian embassy or consulate in 5 working days, there is also a possibility to get it urgently (in 48 hours) by paying a double fee. Visas for children under 16 are issued free of charge.

Applications for visas are to be made to the nearest Belarusian overseas consulate.

For this purpose,please use **www.mfa.gov.by** – Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus site or contact "Vneshintourist" directly **incoming@321.by**

Visa Arrangements at "Minsk-2" International Airport upon Arrival

ATTENTION!!! Starting from September 1st, 2012 the possibility of obtaining of all types of entry visas in the Foreign Admissions Division of the Consular Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Minsk National Airport is granted only for the citizens of foreign countries with NO diplomatic representations or consular offices of Belarus.

The complete procedure of obtaining tourist visas at "Minsk-2" International Airport & some useful hints how to make it faster will be explained to each of "Vneshintourist" guest personally.













Medical Insurance for Belarus

All foreign guests (except for the British citizens) travelling to the Republic of Belarus must purchase a Belarusian Medical Insurance Certificate.The minimum insurance limit of responsibility is five thousand EUR. These Medical Belarusian Medical Certificates can be bought in Minsk-2 Airport just upon arrival. Two Belarusian Insurance Companies in Belarus have the right to sell them: BELGOSSTRACH & BELEXIMGARANT, the stands of which are situated in the airport before Passport Control. The price for this Medical Certificate is not high: 3–4 day stay costs 2 EUR; 5–6 day stay 3 EUR; 7–8 day stay 4 EUR; 9–10 day stay 5 EUR etc. Cash ONLY!
So, when you arrive in Minsk, go to one of these 2 Insurance companies' stands and tell for how many days Belarusian Medical Certificate is needed and show your passport for filling out this Certificate.

! For Group travellers "Vneshintourist" organizes this procedure in advance !







www.321.by

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Vnesh Intourist

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General Information:

Geographical position: the center of Europe.

Territory: 207, 600 square kilometers. Belarus borders on Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Russia, and Ukraine.

Time zone: GMT+2.

Climate: mild winters and warm summers.

Population: 9,466,000.

Capital: the city of Minsk (1 855 000) … 215 km to Vilnius, 550 km to Warsaw, 700 km to Moscow.

Ethnic composition: Belarusians (over 80 percent), Russians, Poles, Ukrainians, Jews, and other ethnicities.

Official Languages: Belarusian, Russian.

Religion: Christianity (Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches), Judaism and Islam.

National holiday: Independence Day of the Republic of Belarus (Republic Day), July 3.



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